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(Statement of Accuracy of Translation [5-3]—page 2 of 2)

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SPECIFICATION

To All Whom It May Concern:

Be It Known That We,

Philippe Charrin, a citizen of the France, resident of the City of Beaumont Monteux whose full post office address is Les Chirouzes, F-26600 Beaumont Monteux; and Andre Charrin, a citizen of the France, resident of the City of Beaumont Monteux whose full post office address is Les Chirouzes, F-26600 Beaumont Monteux have invented certain new and useful improvements in

DEVICE FOR DISPLAYING AND PRESERVING BOUQUETS OF FLOWERS

Title: Device for presenting and preserving bouquets of flowers.

The present invention involves a device for the presentation and preservation of bouquets of flowers, as well as a device for packaging and preserving bouquets of flowers.

Patent EP 0828 446 describes a device for the presentation of bouquets, consisting of a collapsible support, several panels, a connection wrapped around the panels, a watertight sheet, a first fixation of the device and a second fixation of the device consisting of a ribbon.

Patent EP 0881 167 reveals a receptacle for bouquets of flowers, consisting of a circular base element, from which multiple elongated elements extend.

The purpose of the invention is the quick presentation of a bouquet of flowers in a vertical position and the preservation of this bouquet by introducing water through an orifice located in the upper part of the device.

Another purpose of the invention is to create stability for all kinds of bouquets.

The present invention will be better understood when referring to the following figures:

Figure 1 shows a shaft that is integral with a base element in the shape of a cross according to a first manner of embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 shows the manner of embodiment in figure 1 where the base element is in the form of a tripod.

Figure 3 shows a view from above of the manner of embodiment in figure 2.

Figure 4 shows the manner of embodiment of figure 2 where each base of the foot of the tripod is connected to the adjacent bases by a circular arc element.

Figure 5 shows a view from above of the manner of embodiment shown in figure 4.

Figure 6 shows an alternative form of the manner of embodiment in figure 1 where the shaft comprises loops, and is integral to a circular base element, and where these loops allow flower stems to pass through in order to position the flowers and shape the bouquet.

Figure 7 shows the manner of embodiment in figure 6 where the loops are affixed to the shaft arranged in a different manner.

Figure 8 shows an alternative manner of embodiment from that in figure 6 where multiple points replace the loops on the shaft.

Figure 9, shows another alternative manner of embodiment from that in figure 6 where the shaft features a spur instead of loops.

Figure 10 shows a variation in the manner of embodiment shown in figure 6 where the shaft features contractions of its diameter at the level of the connection, integral with a circular base element, where the flowers are placed on the base element.

Figure 11 shows an assembly in series of devices with a single shaft.

Figure 12 shows a shaft with a bouquet in the process of being assembled and affixed to it.

Figure 13 shows a shaft onto which a handle can be screwed.

Figure 14 shows a shaft onto which a label can be fitted.

Figure 15 shows a manner of embodiment with three shafts that are integral to a base element without a rim, in the shape of a disk.

Figure 16 shows the manner of embodiment of figure 15 where the base element features a rim in the shape of a disk.

Figure 17 shows the manner of embodiment in figure 15 where the three shafts feature a head with a point.

Figure 18 shows a manner of embodiment similar to that in figure 17 with a bouquet that is about to be pushed onto the points of the three shafts. It should be noted here that the points on the shafts are of a different shape than those in figure 17.

Figure 19 shows the manner of embodiment in figure 18 with the bouquet assembled onto the shafts.

Figure 20 shows the system in figure 19, placed at the bottom of a vase.

Figure 21 shows the manner of embodiment in figure 19, placed at the bottom of a vase and wrapped in a watertight sheet placed under the vase, and which converges towards the central top of the device and held in place by a second fixation device consisting of a ribbon that holds the watertight sheet around the bouquet, all of which is arranged so as to allow the introduction of water through an orifice located in the upper part of the device.

Figure 22 shows a second manner of embodiment of a device with three or more identical

rectangular triangles, whose common side is the device's central vertical axis, corresponding to the right-angle side of these triangles.

Figure 23 shows the device in figure 22 and features, at its top, an opening in the shape of a V.

Figure 24 shows the base element from the manner of embodiment in figure 22.

Figure 25 shows the device in figure 22 whose base element is affixed to a circular base.

Figure 26 shows a third manner of embodiment of the invention, with two half-cones in the open position, which may or may not be connected by a hinge.

Figure 27 shows the manner of embodiment in figure 26 with the two half-cones in the semi-open position and assembled by a hinge.

Figure 28 shows the manner of embodiment in figure 26 with the two half-cones being closed.

Figure 29 shows the manner of embodiment in figure 26 where the two half-cone device is closed and contains a bouquet and is wrapped with a watertight sheet.

Figure 30 shows a geometric conical figure consisting, at its base, of several elongated lower elements, an intermediate part equipped with a collar and upper panels.

Figure 31 shows [a] geometric conical figure affixed to a circular base element.

Figure 32 shows [a] geometric perforated conical figure affixed to a circular base element.

Figure 33 shows a conical device with a total opening.

Figure 34 shows a conical device with a partial opening, i.e. solely by opening two collars.

Figure 35 shows a device consisting of a half-cone with a male means of closure.

Figure 36 shows a device consisting of a half-cone with a female means of closure.

Figure 37 shows the first support.

Figure 38 shows the second support.

Figure 39 shows the assembly of the two supports containing a bouquet.

Figure 40 shows the unassembled outside support.

Figure 41 shows the assembled outside support.

Figure 42 shows the watertight pocket.

Figure 43 shows the watertight pocket.

Figure 44 shows the final device, with the two tabs folded back.

Figure 45 shows the final device with a single tab folded back.

The invention can cover several manners of embodiment which are described below:

First manner of embodiment:

In this case, novelty consists of creating a support that is usable for all kinds of bouquets that are tied either by hand or machine by assembling a bouquet onto one or more rigid shafts (1), supported by a base element (2), where the rigid shaft(s) shall be positioned between the flower stems. The flower stems

can be held in the water throughout the assembly procedure.

In figures 1 through 21, a first manner of embodiment of the present invention describes a device for the presentation and preservation of individual bouquets of flowers allows the flower(s) to be held at the level of the device's central axis, consisting of a base element (2) of any shape whatsoever, of dimensions which may or may not be adjustable so that they can adapt to the size of the bouquets, and which may or may not have a raised rim (3) all along [sic] its circumference, and which may feature a base element at the level of the center, from which rises perpendicularly one or more rigid shafts (1) whose purpose is to keep the bouquet in a vertical position, where this bouquet is connected by a primary fixation (4) consisting of a connection, a watertight sheet (5) placed under the base element (2), and which converges towards the central top of the device (6) and is held by a second fixation device (7) which consists of a ribbon, for holding the watertight sheet around the bouquet, all of which is arranged so as to allow the introduction of water through an orifice (8) located in the upper part of the device. The base element (2) can be circular, square, rectangular, triangular, polygonal, or trapezoidal in shape, cruciform, or of tripod form or tripod form with each of the foot bases connected to the adjacent bases with an arched element. The base element may have one or more undulations and one or more depressions to keep the ends of the flower stems in place. The rigid shaft(s) (1) is/are cylindrical, square, rectangular, polygonal or trapezoidal in shape. The top(s) of the rigid shaft(s) is of cylindrical or conical shape, with or without a ring to allow flower stems (9) to pass through. A handle or label can be screwed,

fitted or clipped to the upper part of one or more rigid shafts, so that a means of holding or a label can extend above the flowers. The three rigid shafts can be spaced in such a way as to form an isosceles or equilateral triangle in the center of the base element. The body/ies of the rigid shaft(s) can be hollow or solid. The upper wall of the rigid shaft can be smooth or can have one or more notches, spurs, loops or a combination of these shapes in order to facilitate penetration between the stems of the flowers under the connection that attaches the flower stems together and to keep the bouquet in the vertical position on the base element by consolidating the base-shaft(s)-bouquet element assembly. These devices are designed to be assembled in series on each other if a screw thread is added to a shaft and its complementary part on the bottom of the base element. The device can be arranged inside a vase in order to keep a bouquet perfectly centered. The vase can also include a system for affixing the shaft(s)*. The entire closed conical device comprising the bouquet can serve as a water reserve for flowers when the conical device is draped in a watertight plastic sheet surrounding said device.

Second manner of embodiment:

In figures 22 to 25, the present invention describes, moreover, a device for the presentation and preservation of individual bouquets of flowers, allowing the flower(s) to be held at the level of the device's central axis, consisting of three or more identical rectangular triangles (10), which have as their common side the central vertical axis (11) of the device and the right angle of these

*Translator's note: it is not clear here whether the word "tige" means the device shaft, or the flower stems; in this context either could be correct.

triangles, which thus form a pyramidal geometric figure, where a base element (13) corresponds to a geometric figure that has three or more branches of identical length, which are joined at the central axis (11) of the device and which form an identical angle between them, where the flower stems, when tied up with a connection, are speared onto the top (14) of the device, and where a watertight sheet can be placed under the base element, and this sheet converges towards the center top of the device and is held by a second fixation, consisting of a ribbon, to keep the watertight sheet around the bouquet, all of which is arranged so as to allow the introduction of water through an orifice located in the upper part of the device. The top of the pyramidal geometric figure can also consist of a V-shaped opening (15) which allows the insertion of the attachment that holds the flower stems together. The device can consist of a circular base (16), or one that is square, rectangular, triangular, polygonal, or trapezoidal attached to the base element (16).

Third manner of embodiment:

In figures 26 to 29, the present invention describes a device that allows bouquets to be assembled by high-yield machines. This device is used for presentation and preservation of individual bouquets of flowers, allowing the flower(s) to be kept at the level of the device's central axis, consisting of a flat circular base element in the closed position, two half-cones (17) assembled with or without a hinge or with a fold, and this hinge or fold represent the diameter of the base element. The device consists of a conical body corresponding to the juxtaposition of two flat parts (19) of the two half-cones(17) when the device is in the closed position, a male (20) and female (21) means of closure on the two half-cones in the central area of the cone (for example by clips), upper tabs (22) at the top of the cone that adapt to the volume of the bouquet, a watertight sheet placed under the base element, and which converge towards the central upper part of the device and held in place by a ribbon holding the watertight sheet (23) around the bouquet, all of which is arranged to allow the introduction of water through an orifice (24) located in the upper part of the device. This device can be made of recyclable thermoformed or injected plastic material or of water-resistant cardboard or of any other material, and can have openings in the lower part of the cone.

Fourth manner of embodiment:

In figure 30, a fourth manner of embodiment of the present invention again describes a device for the presentation and preservation of individual bouquets of flowers allowing the flower(s) to be held at the level of the device's central axis, consisting of geometric conical figure

which comprises, at its base (25), multiple lower elongated elements (26) which come together with the central vertical base axis, an intermediate part consisting of a solid conical body (28) which is slit over its width and of a conical collar (29) which is slit over its width and integral with the body of the device, such that the two slits are stacked so as to allow better adaptation of the device to a large volume of flowers, an upper part consisting of multiple elongated upper tabs (30) at the tope of a cone that meets the central vertical axis of said device, where these upper tabs can serve as holding teeth for an attachment.

Fifth manner of embodiment:

In figures 31 and 32, a fifth manner of embodiment of the present invention describes a device for the presentation and preservation of individual bouquets of flowers allow the flower(s) to be held at the level of the device's central axis consisting of a conical geometric figure (31) affixed onto a circular base element (32) or of any other shape. The cone can have multiple openings (33) in its wall.

Sixth manner of embodiment:

In figures 33 to 36, a sixth manner of embodiment of the present invention describes a device for the presentation and preservation of individual bouquets of flowers, allowing the flower(s) to be held at the level of the device's central axis, representing a conical geometric figure which may or may not consist of a base element (34) which has a raised rim (35) relative to the perimeter, from which multiple

elongated elements (36) extend and which have a wide lower extremity (37) and a narrow upper extremity (38) more or less triangular in shape, and where these elongated elements are integral with said rim (35) and which rise in the direction of the central vertical axis of said base element, and on these elongated elements (36), in the upper part of the device, two collars are affixed, where the upper collar (39) has a perimeter that is lower than the lower collar (40) in order to allow better stability of the device and vexation of enclosures which may contain water. This device can be partially open if only the two collars have an opening or can be totally open if, at the same time, the two collars have an opening (62) and also the raised rim (35) has an opening (61). The device has a male fixation (41) and a female fixation (42). The device can consist of two half-cones (which may open or close in the upwards direction) which may or may not have a base element.

Seventh manner of embodiment:

In figures 37 to 39, a seventh manner of embodiment of the present invention also has the goal of packaging the product in a way that decreases its fragility, and which allows protection of disposable vases and vases which must travel with their contents prepared by a florist. More specifically, the invention involves the concept of packaging for flowers or any other system of water storage. But the device can also be used for the protection of bottles of wine. The device needs only to be adapted to the shape of the object to be packaged.

The device in the invention consists of one rigid technical part, made of cardboard or plastic or any other material that could serve as support with a quick

installation incorporating a ribbon which facilitates closure of the device, while at the same time allowing the device to be used for advertising and decoration.

The present invention involves a quick-assembly device that is delivered flat. An attaching system may be incorporated or it may be independent. The rounded cutouts (43) made in the lateral panels of the first supporting the device serve to integrate the two elements installed. When it is attached, it protects the product packaged in this way, thanks to the cutout, by improving the stability of the product, and allows attachment of an advertisement.

In the case where the device contains flowers, it allows the water level to be verified and water to be added without removing the flowers from the device.

A second system, placed over this assembly, diagonally, allows total protection, for use in cold countries. In effect, the device prevents passage of any moisture due to condensation from the air when passing from a cold environment to a warm environment (for example in winter). It can therefore be placed on any surface whatsoever by improving its stability.

The surface of the base can be established as a function of the surface of a rack truck bed with multiple levels used for transport in order to protect it from any lateral or longitudinal shifting on the truck bed.

The device can be cut out of cardboard or of thermoformed or injected plastic.

The device is acquired flat, cut out, thermoformed or injection-molded before it is shaped, setup is facilitated by marking that allows the two parts to come together at the top, where the two parts have two cutouts that allow the

setup of an attachment system which can be integrated into the orifices of an attachment that allows the bouquets to be integral, protected and braced during air transport, and during transport between the florist and the consumer. A partial rounded cutout in the base will position and affix the disposable object or vase by simply attaching the tabs between each other with an attachment provided for this purpose.

The device according to the invention allows disposable vases to be stabilized and makes them stable when it [sic] will be transported by airplane or truck on racks provided for this purpose.

According to figures 37 to 39, the device for packaging and preserving individual bouquets of flowers, allowing the flower(s) to be held at the level of the device's central vertical axis, is distinguished by the fact that it consists of the juxtaposition of two supports, i.e. a first support (44) consisting of three panels and two fold lines (46), two peripheral panels (47) of identical length and which each have a rounded cutout (43), the third central panel (48) corresponding to the base element,

and a second support (45), without a cutout, consisting of three panels and two fold lines (50): two peripheral panels (49) of identical length, where the third central panel (51) corresponds to the base element, and this second support allows over-packing and is equipped with a bottom (51). The first flat support is equipped with two rounded cutouts (43) which, once in place, will make the device integral with the packaged product. The device consists of a connection (52) which encloses and hooks onto the upper portion of the latter, where this connection passes through opening (63) and is incorporated by insertion

into two orifices (53) located in the upper part of the peripheral panel opposite the first support in order to allow the assembly to be closed. The cutout allows one side of the product it is protecting (11) to be sent. The device's two flat surfaces can serve to indicate the water level, and thus allow the user to see if there is too little or too much water. The device can be arranged so as to receive a flask whose contents can allow the life of the flowers to be extended. The device has a pyramidal form when it is in the operating position and it can be crossed in order to give extra packaging to the system for use under extreme travel conditions or intense cold. It can consist of a sheet of paper or rigid plastic, a sheet of corrugated cardboard or honeycomb plastic, pierced with two rounded cutouts, which allow the tabs to block the assembly simply by lifting and attaching with the ribbon, or with the incorporated connection.

Eighth manner of embodiment:

In figures 40 to 45, an eighth manner of embodiment of the present invention involves a device for the presentation and preservation of individual bouquets of flowers that allows the flower(s) to be held at the level of the device's central axis, consisting of the juxtaposition of two supports:

An exterior support (54), conical in shape, and having a base element, male (55) and female (56) attachments on the cone's wall, two tabs (57) in the upper part of the cone,

A watertight pocket (58) having two tabs (59) provided with openings (60) in its upper part, where the pocket (58) slides into the inside of conical support (54)

and is attached to the latter by penetration of two tabs (47) in the outer support, into the two openings (60) in pocket (58).

Tabs (57 and 59) can be folded back.

Most of the above means of embodiment can be surrounded with a watertight sheet placed under the base element, and converge towards the central top of the device and held by a second fixation consisting of a ribbon in order to hold the watertight sheet around the bouquet, all of which is arranged so as to allow introduction of water through an orifice located in the upper part of the device.